

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claim amendments presented above do not add any new claims. In addition, one claim has been canceled and seven claims have been amended. Consequently, it is believed that no additional PTO fees have been generated by this filing. If it is determined, however, that fees are due in this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-1722 in the amount of such fees.

Claims 1-12, 26, 32 and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph and second paragraph. The Office action states that the content of claim 8 serves to cause claim 1 to encompass a cascaded comb structure having a single comb structure. The rejection is based on the view that a structure with a single comb stage is not disclosed in the specification.

In response, claims 8-12, 29 and 30 have been amended to designate "at least three comb stages." These amendments, coupled with the use of the term cascade in claims 1, 26, 32 and 34, make clear that a comb structure with a "single comb stage" is not being claimed in these claims. Further, since the issue related to the location of the resonator is a result of the "single comb stage" interpretation, the amendments and the use of the term cascade removes that issue as well.

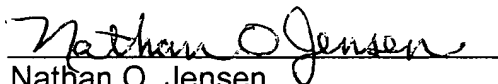
Regarding the rejection of claims 4, 5 and 31, Applicant believes that these claims are allowable. For example, page 13, line 9 of the specification states that different numbers (which would be different than the prior described

one or two) of rate change elements can be used. Further, three rate change components and a plurality of additional rate change components (four or more) are also disclosed via their presentation in originally-filed claims 4, 5 and 31.

Applicant believes that the above remarks fully address the issues and rejections raised in the Office Action and establish that the pending claims are allowable over the stated rejections. Accordingly, entry of the indicated amendments and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

By



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